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UNCLAS MAPUTO 000197

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/ES-CR,S/ES-O,AF/S AND AF/RSA

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SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CHISSANO

On February 12, post received the following letter from the Office of the Presidency for President Bush. We will forward the hard copy to AF/S via pouch.

Text of President Chissano's letter:

Dear Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for your assistance to ECOWAS and Africa in general in the operations for the restoration of peace in Liberia. I also wish, on behalf of Africa, to thank your Government and the people of the United States of America. Without your support, the suffering of the Liberian people would have lasted longer.

West African soldiers and policemen have contributed immensely to the maintenance of peace and security in that sub-region and are right now committed to the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement in Cote d'Ivoire.

The UN Secretary General recently issued a report that, among other things, recommended the UN Security Council approval for additional troops to boost the current ECOWAS forces in Cote d'Ivoire up to a total number of 6,240.

I kindly request your personal support to this proposal in order to help the UN Secretary General Report go through the UN Security Council. The conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, as you know, is likely to have a spill over effect to neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone. The bloodletting in Liberia has been controlled, and all the parties are presently going through the process of disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion. No efforts, therefore, shall be spared to ensure that total peace is restored in Cote d'Ivoire. Otherwise, Liberia could be exposed to possible resumption of hostilities among the warring parties, who could easily move across the permeable borders at will.

Please help Africa to elicit support from the leadership of the US Congress for this very important regional and sub-regional peace initiative.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Joaquim Alberto Chissano

President of the Republic of Mozambique

And Chairman of the African Union

La Lime